

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a microfluidic device comprising a body structure comprising at least a first microscale channel network disposed therein. The body structure having a plurality of ports disposed in the body structure in fluid communication with the first microscale channel network. The device further comprises a cover layer comprising a plurality of apertures disposed through the cover layer and at least first and second annular rings arranged circumferentially around each of the apertures and extending downwardly from a lower surface of the cover layer, the cover layer being mated with the body structure whereby each of the apertures is aligned with at least one of the plurality of ports.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTI NAGPAUL whose telephone number is (571)272-1273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday (10:00-7:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JN

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797